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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: D. Yu et al. Attorney Docket No.: MEIP118201  
Application No.: 09/990,238 Art Unit: 2624 / Confirmation No: 1926  
Filed: November 21, 2001 Examiner: S.C. Chawan  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THREE DIMENSIONAL EDGE  
TRACING WITH Z HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Seattle, Washington 98101

August 23, 2006

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In the "Reason for Allowance" included in the Notice of Allowability issued on June 2, 2006, the Examiner indicated that all Claims 1-10 and 12-17 (renumbered as Claims 1-16) are allowed "as a result of applicants' amendment filed on April 20, 2006, by including the allowable subject matter as set forth in paragraph 5 of the last Office Action mailed on October 19, 2005." Paragraph 5 of the last Office Action mailed on October 19, 2005, noted that dependent Claims 3-9, 11, and 13-15 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Applicants respectfully submit that in the amendment filed on April 17, 2006, none of Claims 3-9, 11, and 13-15 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Rather, in the amendment of April 17, 2006, applicants amended Claim 1, which is the only independent claim in the present application, to clarify its meaning while incorporating some portions of the subject matter previously recited in Claims 3-9, 11, and 13-15.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR  
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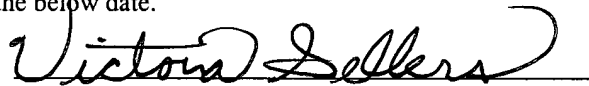


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August 24, 2006



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